

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 30 are pending in this application. Claims 8 through 14 were allowed. The specification has been amended to indicate the application numbers of the applications that are cross-referenced in paragraph one.

However, claim 1 was objected to because of informalities: the Office Action indicated that the long sentence impeded a clear understanding of the claim. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended in a manner that is intended to allow a clearer understanding of the claimed subject matter.

Claim 30 was provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same subject matter as that of claim 5 of co-pending United States Patent Application No. 10/635,793 ("the NWISP043 Application"). Claims 15 and 16 through 29 were provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being allegedly unpatentable over claims 1 through 4 and 16 of the NWISP043 Application. Accordingly, claim 30 has been amended so that it no longer claims the same subject matter as claim 5 of the NWISP043 Application. A Terminal Disclaimer is being filed herewith regarding the NWISP043 Application.

Claims 1 and 15 were also provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being allegedly unpatentable over claims 1 and 18 of co-pending United States Patent Application No. 10/635,744 ("the NWISP042 Application"). A Terminal Disclaimer is also being filed herewith regarding the NWISP042 Application.

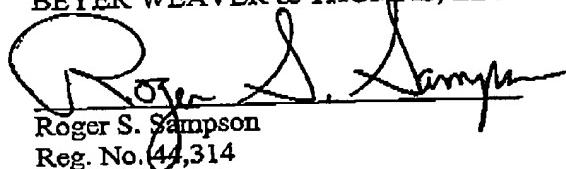
CONCLUSION

Applicants' attorney believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants' attorney can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Applicants' attorney hereby petitions for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. NWISP039).

Dated: 8 March 2006

Respectfully submitted,
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